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OAKHAM URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L     R E P O R T

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the year 1937.

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A N N U A L      R E P O R T  
of the  
M E D I C A L   O F F I C E R   O F   H E A L T H  
for the year 1937.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the pleasure to present my thirty-sixth Annual Report on the health of your district.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	..	..	..	..	..	2,250
Population Census 1921 (taken during School term)						3,340
"            "            1931 (taken during holidays)						3,191
Estimated resident population 1937	..			..		3,320
Number of inhabited houses at end of 1937				..		1,004
Rateable value	..	..	..	..	..	£19,323
Sum represented by a penny rate	..			..	..	£73

Social Conditions.

The industrial conditions are precisely what one would look for in a small country town with a stationary population, which is the centre of an agricultural and grazing district. A well-appointed cattle market is provided. There is one small shoe factory.

The town possesses a well-known Public School of the same foundation as Uppingham. It is also the centre of the country hunted by the Cottesmore hounds.

Vital Statistics.

Births, legitimate	M. 30	F. 22	Total	52
" illegitimate	M. <u>3</u>	F. <u>1</u>	Total	<u>4</u>
Totals:-	<u>33</u>	<u>23</u>		<u>56</u>
Still-births	..	..	2 (both legitimate)	
Birth-rate	..	..	..	16.8
Birth-rate for England & Wales		..	..	14.9
Deaths: Males 28.		Females 12.	Total	40
Death-rate	..	..	..	12.0

Allowance for age and sex-distribution reduces this figure to 9.3 per thousand.



Death-rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	..	12.4
Deaths of Infants under one year of age - 3 (all legitimate)					
Infant Mortality Rate per 1000 births	..	..	..	..	53
Infant Mortality Rate for England & Wales	..	..	..	..	58

Causes of Death.

					<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>
<u>All Causes.</u>					<u>28</u>	<u>12</u>
Influenza	..	..	..	..	3	-
Respiratory tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	-	-
Cancer	..	..	..	..	2	4
Diabetes	..	..	..	..	1	-
Cerebral haemorrhage, etc.	..	..	..	..	2	-
Heart disease	..	..	..	..	5	-
Other circulatory diseases	..	..	..	..	6	3
Bronchitis	..	..	..	..	1	1
Pneumonia (all forms)	..	..	..	..	1	-
Diarrhoea etc. (under 2 years)	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other digestive diseases	..	..	..	..	-	1
Nephritis	..	..	..	..	-	-
Puerperal sepsis	..	..	..	..	-	-
Other puerperal causes	..	..	..	..	-	-
Congenital causes	..	..	..	..	3	-
Suicide	..	..	..	..	1	-
Other violence	..	..	..	..	1	-
Other defined causes	..	..	..	..	2	3

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority:-

The Medical Officer of Health acts for the Leicestershire & Rutland Combined Districts in which this District is included.

The Sanitary Inspector is also the Surveyor for the Urban District.

Hospitals:-

Cases of Infectious Disease requiring isolation are sent to one or other of the Leicestershire Isolation Hospitals, usually to the hospital at Melton Mowbray.





Other particulars furnished in previous Annual Reports are still applicable, no special alteration or developments having taken place during the year.

### SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

#### Water:-

The public supply has continued to prove satisfactory and no curtailment was necessary throughout the year.

#### Drainage & Sewerage:-

The new Disposal Works have continued to yield a satisfactory effluent. No important extensions have been called for or completed during the year. There are only seven cesspools in the District.

#### Closet Accommodation:-

Approximate number in District	(1)	Privies	None
	(2)	Pail Closets	160
	(3)	Chemical Closets	11
	(4)	Water Closets:	About 885

Eighteen pail closets were converted to the water-carriage system during the year and the last privy in the district was replaced by a chemical closet.

The conversions to water-carriage during each of the past five years were as follows:- 32, 35, 25, 5 and 18. Average 23.

The Council has now commenced a conversion scheme under Section 47 of the Public Health Act 1936. It is estimated that by the end of 1939 all pail-closets on the line of sewers will have been converted to water-carriage.


#### Scavenging:-

Refuse is collected weekly and tipped in an old brick-field at a considerable distance from the town. All night-soil is collected before 7.30 a.m. The Council possesses two suitable refuse-carts.

#### Sanitary Inspection of the District:-

The Sanitary Inspector submits the following classified statement:-

Total No. of complaints received during the year	..	6
" " " premises visited during the year	.. ..	360
" " " defects or nuisances discovered	.. ..	15



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Total No. of inspections made for all purposes	.. ..	630
" " " notices served - Informal 38. Formal 20.		58
" " " defects remedied after service of notice	..	16
" " " summonses issued	.. .. ..	Nil

Premises and Occupations which can be controlled by Bye-Laws or Regulations:-

Common Lodging Houses:-

There is one in the District. Five inspections have been made during the year, and on each occasion it has been found to be clean and well conducted.

There are no Offensive Trades, and there are no occupied Tents, Vans or Sheds.

Other Sanitary Conditions requiring Notice:-

No. of houses found to be infested by bed-bugs .. Nil

No. of houses disinfested .. .. Nil

The Public Highways are all well kept as is also the cattle market. The town is moreover free from smoke nuisance.

A field on Cold Overton Road has been presented to the Town by Mr. D. N. Royce, the Chairman of the Council, to commemorate the Coronation. The Council have had this levelled and 2 sets of football goal-posts have been erected, also 12 bench seats.

Schools - Sanitary Conditions and Water Supply:-

A new Central School is being built to replace the old "temporary" School and it is anticipated that this will be in use in the Autumn of 1938.

Other Schools now have the public water supply and satisfactory sanitation.

Swimming Baths & Pools:-

No. in area - 1. Public owned - 0. Privately owned - 1.

The Oakham Public School Swimming Bath was made available for the use of the public during the School holidays.

There is an excellent purification plant, and the Council's Committee appointed an efficient manager for the period.

The Sanitary Inspector serves on the Committee.



## H O U S I N G.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:-

(1)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ..	20
	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	30
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 .. ..	4
	Number of inspections made for the purpose ..	5
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .. .. .	8
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	3

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices:-

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers .. .. .	1
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### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:-

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16, of the Housing Act, 1936:-

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs .. .. .	2
Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices .. .. .	Nil

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts .. .. . Nil

#### C. Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:-

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made .. .. .	6
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders .. .. .	11
Number demolished in pursuance of Clearance Order	11

### 4. Housing Act, 1935: Overcrowding.

(a)	i. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year 1937	3
	ii. Number of families dwelling therein ..	3
	iii. Number of persons dwelling therein: Equivalent to	19
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	1
(c)	i. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
	ii. Number of persons concerned in such cases	6
(d)	Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after Local Authority had taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	NONE





Although there are only three cases of statutory overcrowding the number would be considerably increased were we to base our estimate solely on bedroom accommodation.

With a stationary population 145 houses have been built during the past ten years. There are still about 30 occupied houses which are very old and ill-planned.

Six houses were built by the Council during the year and ten were built by other bodies or persons. About 15 more are now being built.

#### Schools:-

Improvements are in progress at the Junior School House.

### INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk:- The Inspector reports as follows:-

<u>Retailers:</u>	No. on Register	..	..	..	..	15
	(including 6 with no premises in the Urban District)					
	No. of inspections of premises	..	..			17
<u>Producers:</u>	No. on Register	..	..	..	..	6
	No. of inspections of premises	..	..			18
Contraventions:-						
				<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>	
	Cleansing	..	..	..	1	1
	Structural alterations	..	..	..	1	1

There are about 80 milch-cows in the District.

One license has been renewed for the bottling and retailing Tuberculin tested milk.

#### Meat etc.:-

No. of carcasses or parts of carcasses condemned:-

For Tuberculosis	..	..	..	..	..	Nil
For other diseases	..	..	..	..	..	Nil

No disease of meat was found or reported during the year.

Private Slaughter-houses:-    In Jan. 1937.    In Dec. 1937.

No. registered	4	4
No. licensed	1	1

There is no public abattoir.

No. of inspections of premises	..	..	..	21
"    "    "    at time of slaughter	..	..		5

Meat Stalls:-                      No. of inspections    ..    ..    5





Meat Shops, Meat Stores etc.:- No. of inspections .. .. 25

Places where food (other than meat) is kept or prepared for sale:-

No. of inspections .. .. 29

Two tinned hams which were found unfit were voluntarily surrendered.

Bakehouses are on the whole very well kept. Cleansing and limewashing are ordered whenever necessary.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The record of notifications received during the year, together with the total number of deaths is as follows:-

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	1	1	-
Diphtheria	2	2	-
Pneumonia	7	-	1
Erysipelas	3	-	-
Measles with Pneumonia	-	1	-
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	-	-	-

The following pathological examinations were made at the Virol Research Laboratories:-

Swabs for Diphtheria .. .. 38

Blood for Typhoid, Paratyphoid and Undulant Fevers .. 8

The following Table shows the age-distribution of new cases of TUBERCULOSIS. There were no deaths.

Age-Periods.	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
5 years and under 10	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
10 " " " 15	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
15 " " " 20	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
20 " " " 25	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 " " " 45	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 " " upwards	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals:-	2	1	2	1	-	-	-	-



No action was necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925, nor was any action called for under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Factories, Workshops & Workplaces.

(1) Inspections:-

Factories	No. of inspections	5
	No. of written notices	Nil
Workshops (including Workshop-Laundries)	No. of inspections	15
	No. of written notices	Nil
Workplaces (other than Outworkers' Premises)	No. of inspections	Nil

(2) <u>Defects:-</u>	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>
	Nil	Nil

(3) Outwork in unwholesome premises:-	..	Nil
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It was not found necessary to refer any matter to H.M.  
Inspector.

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I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

J. E. O'CONNOR, M.D., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health.

Kirby Muxloe,

Leicester.

13th May, 1938.

